

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05
HA-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /059 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:KMCCORMICK:DH
APPROVED BY AF:RMOOSE
AF/S:DPETTERSON
H:GLANPHER (SUBS)
-----069075 190027Z /21

O R 182351Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 099624

GABORONE FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SREF, WZ

SUBJECT: GOS CRACKDOWN ON PAC/SWAZILAND

REF: (A) GABORONE 8068; (B) MBABANE 8288; (C) MBABANE 8857

I. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES AMBASSADOR NORLAND'S AND
EMBASSY MBABANE'S PROMPT AND THOROUGH INVESTIGATION TO
CLARIFY EVENTS SURROUNDING ROUNDUP AND DETENTION OF
PAC/SWAZILAND ACTIVISTS AND OTHERS BY GOS. CONGRESSMAN
BEDELL IS RELIEVED THAT RUMORS OF IMMINENT DEPORTATION
APPEAR EXAGGERATED. HE HAS ASKED DEPARTMENT TO COMMEND
ALL INVOLVED IN INVESTIGATING THEM. HE WAS NOT AWARE
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OF HISTORY OF PREVIOUS PAC DIFFICULTIES WITH FORMER
HOST COUNTRIES AND BELIEVES RECENT REPORTING SUBSTANTIAL-
LY ALTERS HIS INITIAL IMPRESSIONS OF SITUATION.
HOWEVER, HE REMAINS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT
STUDENT REFUGEES NOT AFFILIATED WITH PAC/S MAY HAVE
BEEN PICKED UP INDISCRIMINATELY ALONG WITH GENUINE PAC
ACTIVISTS. SEVERAL CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS MEMBERS

HAD CONSIDERED SENDING CABLE TO GOS EXPRESSING SIMILAR CONCERN. BEDELL'S SON IN SWAZILAND IS AFRAID THAT REFUGEE ACQUAINTANCES OF HIS WHOM HE BELIEVES ARE INNOCENT OF PAC INVOLVEMENT MAY BE AMONG DETAINEES. AT DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTION, BEDELL DECIDED AGAINST HIS

INITIAL INCLINATION TO PASS LIST OF DETAINEES PROVIDED IN REF (B) TO HIS SON IN SWAZILAND BY TELEPHONE. INSTEAD, SON WILL CONTACT EMBASSY APRIL 19 TO INQUIRE WHETHER HIS ACQUAINTANCES ON LIST. EMBASSY IS ASKED TO COOPERATE WITH HIS REQUEST INsofar AS POSSIBLE.

2. CONCUR WITH RECOMMENDATION (REF A) THAT AMBASSADOR SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SCHEDULED CONVERSATIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER APRIL 25-29 TO FOLLOW UP ON QUESTION OF DETENTION OF NON-PAC SWAZIS, WHICH GOS PUBLIC STATEMENT DID NOT ADDRESS. THIS SHOULD ALSO BE OCCASION FOR RAISING QUIETLY BUT CLEARLY OUR CONCERN FOR FATE OF DETAINED MOZAMBIKAN REFUGEES (REF C). BOTH ISSUES INVOLVE ACUTE SWAZI SENSITIVITIES REGARDING SECURITY AND RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING STATES, AND WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING IN INTERNAL SWAZI AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, PM'S INVITATION TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF DETAINEES AND HIS REASONABLE AND FRIENDLY ATTITUDE (IN CONTRAST TO DEFENSIVE REACTION OF DPM NXUMALO) APPEAR TO OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO GET CONFIDENTIAL

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ON RECORD US VIEW THAT SWAZIS' USE OF DETENTION LAW WEAKENS THEIR MORAL POSITION AND PROBABLY DOES NOT ENHANCE THEIR REAL STABILITY. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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